

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2004 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Stanislaus

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Rain Ananael

**IMAGERY:**

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program

date: 2004

scale: 2 meter

film type:

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: NASA-Ames Research 1:130,000 CIR, July 21, 2004

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:*

*county:*

*others:*

➤ *personal contacts: None*

➤ *websites:* <http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us/>,  
<http://www.newhomesmag.com/>,  
[http://www.csac.counties.org/counties\\_close\\_up/county\\_web/stanislaus](http://www.csac.counties.org/counties_close_up/county_web/stanislaus)  
<http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us>  
<http://www.diablogrande.com>  
<http://www.cityofnewman.com>

➤ *GIS data referenced: DFG lands, USFWS federal lands, USGS 1:24 k DRG's, FEMA floodplains, GDT roads, water holding ponds.*

**2002-2004 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were 73 changes in this category. The majority of these changes represent new housing developments and additions to existing housing developments. The Summit Corporate Center in the Salida area added 67 new acres of urban. In the Patterson area, the Walker Ranch, Patterson Gardens and Keystone Pacific Business Park resulted in 413 additional acres of urban land. In the Newman area, Yola Middle School, Hearthstone and Woodside Homes were added. In Oakdale approximately 300 acres of homes were added by FCB, American Homes, and KB Homes; Windemere, Mill Brook, Oak Crest and the Laurel's at Meritage Homes were some of the communities developed. The Crossroads development in the City of Riverbank added 217 urban acres. In the Ceres area Mathew's Homes added some 250 acres of urban land, while Bonita Ranch by Bright Homes contributed 130 acres of new urban in this same area. In addition, 300 more acres of housing were added on the Ceres quad. In the Turlock area, Florsheim, KB Homes and others added 550 acres of homes.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

There were 45 changes in this category. Most of these changes represent small additions of homes on former irrigated pastures. Notable changes were 140 acres for the Diablo Grande (Snelling quad) and Riverbank Crossroads (Denair area) developments; 150 acres for FCB Homes; and the West Pointe Homes development near Ceres for 80 acres.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were 18 changes in this land use conversion. Farmland left idle for three or more update cycles is the reason for the majority of these land use changes, which occur throughout the county.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 146 changes in this category. Most of these changes represent small additions to existing confined livestock operations and small additions of rural residential areas throughout the county.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were 100 changes in this conversion category. The majority of these changes were conversions from other land and grazing land to irrigated agriculture. 300 acres of grazing land went to irrigated alfalfa and hay in the Montpelier area and an additional 200 acres were converted to irrigated agriculture in the northern Turlock area. 150 acres were converted to irrigated hay in the Salida area and 75 acres were irrigated in Waterford. In Cooperstown, 200 acres were converted from grazing to irrigated agriculture. 190 acres of grazing land went to irrigated hay in Paulsell, with another 500 acres being converted from grazing land to irrigated orchards in that same area. There were 450 acres of other land that were converted to irrigated orchards in the Brush Lake, Escalon, Ripon and Westley areas. In addition, 40 changes within this category represent a shift from irrigated pasture to irrigated crop or orchard land. Depending on soil quality, this could represent conversions from Farmland of Local Importance to Unique Farmland.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

There were several changes between grazing land and other land categories. These changes mainly represent boundary adjustments, development density changes, and shifts among and between grazing land, farmland of local importance, and rural land use subcategories within the other land classification.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

During this update, some lands shifted between irrigated crops and irrigated pasture, or vice versa. These changes may reflect crop rotations or more permanent shifts. This will only affect the Important Farmland map on certain soil units, and will result in shifts between Farmland of Local Importance and Unique Farmland.

Stanislaus is experiencing rapid growth around existing urban areas. These areas should be watched closely for new communities and housing developments.

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

*photo interpretation, start date: 8/18/2005*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 20*

*ground truthing dates: October 1, 2005- October 4, 2005*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 12*

\* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

*[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)*